

# SSVF Priority 1 Community Plan

Date Completed/Revised:

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Month			Day			Year			

<b>Continuum of Care (CoC) Name:</b> Berkshire/ Hampshire/Franklin		<b>CoC #:</b> MA-507
<b>CoC Representative:</b> Dave Christopolis		<b>Title:</b> Executive Director
<b>Phone/Email:</b> 413-296-4536 ext 118 ----- davec@hilltowncdc.org		
<b>Person Completing this Plan:</b> Michael Hagmaier		<b>Title:</b> Grants/Contracts
<b>Phone/Email:</b> 413-822-8240----- mhagmaier@wesoldieron.org		

**1. Primary Planning and Coordination Group:** Identify the primary group responsible for planning and coordinating efforts to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in the CoC. Identify the principal members of this group and their affiliation.

Primary Group Name: Western Mass Network to end Homelessness – Veteran sub-committee	
Principle Members	Affiliation
Michael Hagmaier	Soldier On
Matt Buckley	Soldier On
Katherine Person	Veterans Inc.
Dave Christopolis	Hilltown Community Development Corp. CoC Rep
Pamela Schwartz	Western Mass Network to End Homelessness-Director
Sabrina Willard	Springfield Partners for Community action
Ben Cluff	Mass Dept. of Public Health
Sue White	VA HUD VASH Program
Steve Connors	Hampshire County Veteran Service Officer
Scott Haskell	Turner House

**2. Ongoing Review and Coordination:** Briefly describe how often (e.g., monthly) the above group or a related review/coordination group meets to review Veterans who are homeless, track progress toward re-housing, and coordinate efforts. Include a summary of what information is reviewed during these meetings.

The Veteran Sub-Committee meets monthly and will review the coordination of SSVF priority 1 and Priority 2 Grants that are serving the MA507 CoC. The committee will track the following information:

- Veterans that enroll into the local transitional housing programs that are originating from the MA507 CoC vs those that are coming from outside the MA507 CoC.
  - In addition track veterans that meet the definition of Chronically homeless within the same 2 categories references above
- Using the coordinated assessment the group will work together to find the best available housing placement and ensure wrap around services for the most needy and hardest to place/ maintain housing

**3. SSVF Grantees Serving CoC Geography:** Identify each SSVF funded agency serving Veterans in the CoC geography and each SSVF total grant award amount for FY15, including priority 1 ("surge"), 2 (renewals), and 3 (other new) awards. If one agency has multiple awards, list each separately. Pro-rate a grant award amount if the award covers more than one CoC geography. Include the projected annual number of households each grantee can serve and the total number of households across all grantees.

Grantee Agency Name	Grant Amount	Total Annual Projected Households	Total Annual Projected Households: Rapid Re-Housing	% of Total Households to be Assisted with Rapid Re-Housing
Soldier On P1	1,000,000	250	150	60
Soldier On P2	579,105	150	90	60
Veterans Inc.	40,000	10	6	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,619,105</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>60%</b>

**\*Please note that data was done on a yearly basis to help the CoC understand projected yearly resources. The P1 grant is \$3 million over 3 years (first line)**

**4. Annual Demand and Need for Rapid Re-Housing Assistance:** Using the *Veterans Demand Analysis and Progress Tracking Tool* or other demand analysis data agreed to by the primary group above, identify:

- The most recent actual or projected annual unduplicated number of homeless Veterans (on street and/or who access emergency shelter, Safe Havens, or transitional housing, including GPD) in the CoC geography, by household type
- The number of those Veterans who will need rapid re-housing assistance to exit homelessness
- The number of Veterans needing rapid re-housing assistance who are projected to be eligible for SSVF RRH assistance.

	Annual Unduplicated Homeless Veteran Households	Estimated # of Needing RRH (a)	Projected # to be Assisted with SSVF RRH (b)	Projected # to be Assisted with Other RRH (c)	Gap (a-(b+c))
Households without Children	481	256	246	10	0
Households with Children	0				
<b>Total Homeless Veteran Households</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>

**\*Please note that CoC is still defining functional zero so this may change. Additionally, RRH may increase to more than 60%.\***

**5. CoC Goals for Ending Homelessness Among Veterans:** List the CoC's goals for ending Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 (fill in additional related goals the CoC has determined, if relevant).

**The CoC has adopted the Federal Plan to end homelessness among Veterans by the end of 2015.**

**What are the CoC's goals for the estimated number of Veterans, including chronically homeless Veterans, who will be homeless as of the night of the January 2016 PIT Count?**

**There will be 0 literal street homeless veterans on the 2016 PIT Count**

	All Homeless Veteran Households (including CH)			Chronically Homeless Veteran Households		
	Sheltered	Unsheltered	TOTAL	Sheltered	Unsheltered	TOTAL
Households without Children	233	0	233	135	0	135
Households with Children	2	0	2	0	0	0
<b>Total Households</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>135</b>

**\*The CoC is still defining functional zero. Right now, the majority of these sheltered households are in GPD. They are working on a strategy to review inflow to GPD and also exits to permanent housing will reducing numbers overall. This will most likely change. Additionally, the chronic numbers are high. The CoC was reviewing their data.\***

**Has the CoC established other goals related to preventing and ending homelessness among Veterans by the**

☐ Yes ☒ No

end of 2015?

If “Yes”, please describe:

Proposed goals by the Veterans subcommittee are included. CoC reviewed on 2/12 and is seeking SSVF support to lead this charge.

**6. SSVF Integration into CoC Coordinated Assessment System:** Briefly describe how Veterans access SSVF assistance (across all SSVF grantees) via the CoC’s coordinated assessment system (e.g., “All Veterans who present to the CoC coordinated assessment center are screened for their current situation, needs, and SSVF eligibility. Then....). If not yet fully developed, describe your plans and implementation timeframe. Specifically address:

- a) How Veterans who present for shelter are screened and diverted to SSVF homelessness prevention assistance when they have somewhere safe and appropriate to stay that night.
- b) How Veterans who become literally homeless are screened and triaged to SSVF rapid re-housing assistance as soon as possible once it is clear the Veteran is unable to resolve their homelessness without assistance.

**A. To ensure Veterans and their families are screened for the services, we will use coordinated outreach through the local PATH program that has contact with 90% of the homeless individuals and family members in MA507. Veterans will then be screened for SSVF initial eligibility either via the phone or in person by Soldier On SSVF staff and those that are prevention will be screened through the use of the Prevention threshold screening tool. Within 48 hours a Soldier On SSVF case manager will meet with the Veteran to determine program enrollment and what they might be eligible for based on the threshold screening score for prevention or permanent housing path for rapid re-housing. Through Berkshire Regional Housing Authority Veterans will begin to find stable housing that meets the needs of the household through market rates, homesharing, roommate sharing, subsidized housing, or permanent supportive housing. Please note that the coordinated assessment tool has not been determined yet for the CoC. The CoC was piloting the VI-Spat but had mixed feedback so the Deputy NHC and SSVF RC will be connecting the CoC to Boston. Note that Veterans Inc. will also be part of coordinated assessment. However, they are proposing to serve a small number of households in this CoC and have already met their household goal for this area.**

**B. Veterans that are screened and diverted from street homelessness are referred to Soldier On and placed into Transitional Housing immediately. SSVF will use Transitional housing as bridge housing to permanent housing. Once in Transitional housing Soldier On will then use the CoC coordinated assessment tool with the Veteran to determine the best course for future housing stability. Veterans will then be linked to Berkshire Regional Housing Authority to find a match for housing stability.**

**7. Long-Term System Improvements:** Briefly describe how the CoC plans to utilize SSVF Priority 1 and all other SSVF funding over the next three years to foster long-term system improvements and optimization so that homelessness is prevented whenever possible and when it does occur, it is rare and brief. Specifically address areas for improvement related to:

- a) Further integrating SSVF assistance into the CoC’s planning, oversight processes and coordinated assessment system.
- b) Ensuring comprehensive coordination with VA systems and other VA funded programs.
- c) Improving or establishing partnerships with community-based services and public/private housing providers.

- A. Veterans that are homeless will be diverted immediately to Soldier On Transitional Housing as bridge housing. They will be screened for SSVF assistance along with other Permanent supportive housing options that include market rate apartments, CoC funded PSH beds, Soldier On PSH apartments and HUD VASH. Through coordinated outreach and screening/assessments Veterans will be matched with the appropriate resource within the community using SSVF as the catalyst to provide at minimum case management to ensure Veterans and their families do not have to experience street homelessness.
- B. Soldier On works closely with the local VA homeless program to identify Veterans and the path that will work best for them once they enter Transitional Housing. Soldier On is working with local homeless program to collaborate on 1 housing plan for Veterans that reside in Transitional Housing by sharing information within the HMIS system. In addition the VA homeless program has a member as part of the MA507 Veteran Sub Committee.
- C. Soldier On is working in partnership with Berkshire Regional Housing in developing web based access to identify housing. The access will include, housing providers contact information, total units, size of units and location.

**8. Other Strengths and Challenges:** Briefly describe any additional strengths and/or challenges relevant to your achieving VA and local goals.

**Soldier On and the MA507 Continuum will eliminate literal street homeless by December 2015.**

**Strength:**

- Desire to meet goals
- Resources to meet goals
- Good relationships with direct service staff in CoC, VA and amongst SSVF grantees
- Creativity
- Understanding the benefits and limitations of technology
- Strategic Thinkers

**Challenges:**

- Developing a system for matching Veterans to Permanent Housing Options that is available to the entire MA507 Continuum
- Identifying Families
- Identifying/ building affordable housing

## **Plan to End Veteran Homelessness**

### **Vision**

To end Veteran homelessness in Pittsfield/Northampton, Franklin, and Hampshire Counties (MA-507) by realistically assessing needs and using technology to increase efficiency so that every Veteran in these

communities has a safe and stable place to call home. The CoC expects to reach functional zero by February 1, 2015

#### Definition of Functional Zero for MA-507

Functional Zero will be achieved when there are zero unsheltered Veterans experiencing homelessness, sheltered Veterans are screened for SSVF services and are able to move to permanent housing within 90 days from shelter entry, and the homeless system is able to divert Veterans at imminent risk of homelessness and rapidly re-house Veterans who do enter the system so that their episode of homelessness is rare and brief.

#### Goal: Functional Zero

What?	Who?	By When?	Notes
Veterans will spend < 1 day on the streets	MA507 CoC and Community Providers	February 1, 2015	Ensure a coordinated outreach effort by ensuring all programs in MA507 utilize the Veteran resource guide.

How goal is measured (ie. how we know we accomplished what we said we would)

We will accomplish this by promoting the Veteran resource guide to all outreach programs, Community Action Agencies, Housing Agencies, Mainstream Benefit programs SSVF programs and Social Service Agencies. Furthermore this will be accomplished when 365 days a year Veterans and their families no longer have to experience literal street homelessness.

#### Goal: Reduce the length of time and number of Veterans that enroll in transitional housing

What?	Who?	By When?	Notes
Reduce length of time and total beds in Transitional Housing	Soldier On Transitional Housing staff and Soldier On SSVF staff	October 1 2015	At intake into transitional housing Veterans will be screened for SSVF services within their first 10 days. Veterans that are imminent risk are diverted from homelessness.

How goal is measured (ie. how we know we accomplished what we said we would)

**The goal will be measured by comparing 2014 and 2015 statistics of the Veterans that enroll into transitional housing. Measure the number of local vs. non local Veterans that enroll into Transitional Housing and the number of Chronically Homeless Veterans that fall into the same categories.**